

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

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1.-11. (canceled).

B 12.-17. (withdrawn).

18. (previously added– currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the prevention and treatment of Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis in ruminants comprising:

a therapeutically effective amount of at least one member selected from the group consisting of bacterial species belonging to the genus *Serpens*;

an immunologically active portion thereof; and

an antigenic epitope in sufficient variety and quantity for protection against Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis that is cross-reactive with an antibody that immunologically reacts with the *Serpens* genera in combination with a veterinarily acceptable diluent or a carrier.

19. (withdrawn).

20. (new) An immunogenic composition for the prevention and treatment of Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis in ruminants comprising:

a therapeutically effective amount of at least one member selected from the group consisting of bacterial species belonging to the genus *Serpens*;

an immunologically active portion thereof; and

an antigenic epitope in sufficient variety and quantity for protection against Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis that is cross-reactive with an antibody that immunologically reacts with the *Serpens* genera in combination with a veterinarily acceptable diluent or a carrier.

21. (new) The immunogenic composition of claim 20 wherein said bacterial species do not produce acetoin from pyruvate.

22. (new) The immunogenic composition of claim 20 wherein said bacterial species do not reduce nitrite to nitrogen.

23. (new) The immunogenic composition of claim 20 wherein said bacterial species are attenuated.

24. (new) An immunogenic composition for the prevention and treatment of Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis in ruminants comprising:

a therapeutically effective amount of at least one member selected from the group consisting of attenuated bacterial species belonging to the genus *Serpens*;

an immunologically active portion thereof; and

an antigenic epitope in sufficient variety and quantity for protection against Papillomatous Digital Dermatitis that is cross-reactive with an antibody that immunologically reacts with the *Serpens* genera in combination with a veterinarily acceptable diluent or a carrier.

25. (new) The immunogenic composition of claim 24 wherein said bacterial species do not produce acetoin from pyruvate.

26. (new) The immunogenic composition of claim 24 wherein said bacterial species do not reduce nitrite to nitrogen.

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